

Avaaz  
SUDAN DISPATCH

## ***Gang rapes, mass suicides and hundreds killed in brutal RSF attacks***

*Avaaz calls for urgent UN/AU protection force, following weak recommendations from UN Secretary General*

OCTOBER 29, 2024 -- Avaaz is calling for the United Nations and African Union to urgently send a joint civilian protection force to Sudan, amid spiralling violence.

Women in villages and towns in Gezira state have taken their own lives to avoid rape, according to local sources, in a wave of brutal attacks by the UAE-backed Rapid Support Forces in Gezira state over the past week.

Despite this major escalation in violence against Sudanese civilians, yesterday the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, failed to include the need for a UN protection force in Sudan when he [delivered his recommendations](#) on protection of civilians to the Security Council.

**Shayna Lewis, Sudan Specialist at Avaaz, said:** "Diplomacy has failed. The warring parties won't even show up to the negotiating table, and leaving them to self-police has resulted in the most appalling war crimes, with no end in sight. The Secretary General is dodging his responsibility by insisting on a nationwide ceasefire before the UN steps up to protect civilians. But that ceasefire is impossible without peace talks. How many massacres and gang rapes will it take for the UN to fulfil its mandate and protect the people of Sudan?"

For the past week UAE-backed RSF fighters have rampaged through villages and towns in Gezira state. Avaaz received reports of numerous gang rapes, including a report from October 23 in east Tamboul of an 8-year-old girl gang raped by RSF fighters, in front of her family. She later died.

The death toll is impossible to verify, in part due to widespread internet blackouts, but multiple reports confirm hundreds have been killed, which is likely a major underestimate. Hundreds more have been abducted according to reports. The attacks displaced more than 46,500 people according to the International Organization for Migration's Tracking Matrix.

**A survivor from the village of Safita in Gezira state said:** "We were able to count 25 dead bodies before leaving the town, and the bodies are still lying in the streets. Some have been buried, and some have not been, due to the RSF banning burial."

**Hala Al Karib, Regional Director at [SIHA](#), said:** "There were confirmed 25 cases of rape on October 22 in Rufaa Town in Gezira state. Two female nurses were abducted from the hospital in Rufaa. Their whereabouts are still unknown. The killing of civilians is rising since more villages are currently being invaded by the RSF. We are still confirming an incident of slaughtered bodies found in the water channel of a nearby village, among them a five-month-old infant. There are massive numbers of missing people, and it will take time to learn about their fate."

Reports have been circulating on [social media](#) that more than 130 women killed themselves to "protect themselves from the RSF sexual violence." Last Friday at least 124 people were killed during an RSF attack on two villages in Gezira state. Videos posted on social media by RSF fighters show dozens of civilians, including the elderly, assaulted and detained. Avaaz was not able to independently verify these reports.

Avaaz has received graphic footage from Tamboul, in Eastern Gezira. In one video a group of men are forced to march alongside a convoy of military vehicles. In the next video, a group of young men are executed. These videos are available on request, and have not been independently verified.

Other notable developments:

- Clashes continued between SAF and the RSF in El Fasher, capital of North Darfur, through the weekend. Three people were killed and dozens wounded in Abu Shouk IDP camp in El Fasher last Thursday when the RSF, which is backed by the United Arab Emirates, shelled the camp. Sources from Abu Shouk said the RSF fired at least 15 artillery shells on the camp, whose population has largely fled, spare those most vulnerable and unable to flee. Despite having no ambulances, rescue workers transported the seriously injured to the nearest hospital.
- The SAF Air Force bombed Mellit town in North Darfur, last Thursday, killing 9 people among them children and women. Mellit is a major land port receiving the bulk of goods coming from Libya and Northern Sudan. Controlled by RSF since April 15, Mellit has attracted thousands of fleeing Darfuris, especially those who fled El Fasher since the final battle for Darfur between RSF and the SAF-allied Joint Forces began last April.
- Both sides are conducting major recruitment drives. SAF appears to be coercing the tribal and native administrations to declare their support. The RSF is recruiting Arab communities in Darfur, and sources from Geneina reported a strong response, extending to neighbouring Chad and Central African Republic.
- SAF shut off the phone networks across most of Gezira, White Nile, Sinnar and Kordofan states over the past 10 days. Ahead of their recent attacks, the RSF has been confiscating internet equipment in Gezira state and in North Darfur.

## **Voices from the Ground**

Avaaz is in contact with human rights defenders, civilians, and Emergency Response Room (ERRs) volunteers across Sudan. If you would like to be connected with people on the ground, please reach out to: shayna@avaaz.org or [sudan@avaaz.org](mailto:sudan@avaaz.org)

## **Avaaz Protection of Civilian Briefing, 23rd October - Recording**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/XDkdfNz2i\\_kdiSIBk-5yXGVctiFERbCX5i\\_I95nP9Nv9G3Ee01OKEHyZ\\_dUmvvty.1V3QNJwmBFVUuiej](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/XDkdfNz2i_kdiSIBk-5yXGVctiFERbCX5i_I95nP9Nv9G3Ee01OKEHyZ_dUmvvty.1V3QNJwmBFVUuiej)

Passcode: RTF9mL^^

### **Speakers:**

**Ikhlass Ahmed**, Advocacy Program Officer, Darfur Advocacy Group. Ikhlass is a passionate women's rights defender and a dedicated advocate for youth peacebuilding, with a particular focus on justice and accountability in Darfur.

**Julie Gregory**, Research Analyst with the Protecting Civilians and Human Security Program at the Stimson Center. Her areas of expertise include the protection of civilians, peacekeeping reform, mediation of armed conflict, and multilateral promotion of human rights. She is currently engaged in research and thought leadership on host-country consent for peacekeeping and the future of UN peace operations.

**Khalid Mishain**, Spokesperson for the Youth Citizen Observatory Network (YCON). YCON has been monitoring and reporting on the Sudan conflict since the outbreak of the war.

**ENDS**